



The Pine Press

Student Housing Corporation

May 29, 2001

Co-op experience is often full of questions

Although many of you are returning members this summer, perhaps you still hold a few questions in your brain about what you're doing living in a house without a specific landlord.

Behold the Frequently Asked Questions of SHC members!

1. So, what exactly is a co-op?

A cooperative is a business controlled by the people who use it. It is a democratic organization whose earnings and assets belong to its members. By patronizing and becoming an active member of a co-op, you invest yourself with the power to change.

2. OK, what is SHC? And why is it different than renting an apartment?

The 19th, 8th, and 3rd letters of the English alphabet. Or more specifically, Student Housing Corporation. It consists of 12 houses, and

199 members. Why is it different from your apartment last year aside from the many more people? You own it! What is SHC? You are SHC!

3. Well, what is ICC?

ICC stands for the Inter Cooperative Council, a collection of the 12 SHC houses, and the three independent co-ops, Beal, Montie, and Howland houses. ICC is considered a major governing group by the Associated Students of MSU (ASMSU). Also, the office at 317 Student Services is officially the ICC Office.

4. What are the Rochdale Principles?

They are the guiding rules of the co-operative movement, and all co-ops



(housing, food, agricultural, etc.). The principles are:

Open Membership— There should be no artificial boundaries to membership in a co-op.

Democratic Control— The affairs of the organization should be decided by the members. Every member of the organization has an equal voice on decisions of the organization.

Limited return, if any, on equity control— The organization does not exist to make money for its members.

Net surplus belongs to user-owners— Any money left over goes back to the members.

Education— Educating members in the economic and democratic cooperation.

Cooperation among cooperatives— All cooperative organizations and movements should cooperate with

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Adding Your Personality to the Pine Press

The first edition of the Pine Press for the Summer of 2001 is finally here! Although this copy is an amateur version of the publication it will soon (hopefully) become, it does include most of the basic elements of the following Pine Presses.

Do not be shy even for a second to consider submitting something for publication. We can use a myriad of articles, or to shorten, art.

Feel free to enter your brain's work to the SHC office in the box for the Pine Press. If you'd like to write

but cannot think of what to highlight, e-mail the publisher, Kelly Hoover, at hoo-verke@msu.edu.

Please submit text work on disk or via e-mail.

I look forward to hearing your ideas!



Be sure to take thorough messages for your housemates! Communication is extremely important!



NASCO offers more opportunities for you than Nabisco

An Introduction to NASCO

NASCO is an association of campus cooperatives in Canada and the U.S., providing student cooperatives with operational assistance, encouraging the development of new student cooperatives, and serving as an advocate for student cooperatives. NASCO teaches leadership skills, provides information, and serves as the central link facilitating the fruition of the Rochdale vision in the student sector.

NASCO's History

In the spring of 1968, participants in a conference sponsored by the University of Michigan Inter-Cooperative Council proposed the organization of a

group "for the purpose of expanding the cooperative movement across college campuses." Three weeks later, a group gathered in Chicago to organize NASCO.

One of NASCO's earliest and most important networking tools has been its newsletters. Under the News briefs masthead, NASCO informed student co-ops, and the co-op movement as a whole, about student co-op development and events, providing an indispensable networking link. The current newsletter title, Co-op Voices, reflects the many individual co-op enthusiasts in the student co-op sector. The cornerstone of NASCO's growth, the regional conference, has developed into the NASCO Institute. Initiated in 1977, the annual Cooperative Edu-

cation and Training Institute provides leadership and technical training to student co-op staff and members from across North America. The late eighties saw the development and implementation of a new business plan for NASCO. It's call for increases in development activity through the incorporation of the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation (CCDC) has brought in a new age of student co-op development through the assistance and initiation of student housing co-op ventures in Davis, California; Chicago, Illinois; Athens, Ohio; and elsewhere. In a related effort, technical and financial assistance has been increased, and member services (such as career development) augmented.

See www.umich.edu/~nasco.

Contacting "that other house"

Atlantis	207 Bogue	337-2762
Bower	127 Whitehills	351-4490
Elsworth	711 W. Grand River	337-3236
Ferency	146 Collingwood	332-0846
<hr/>		
Hedrick	140 Collingwood	332-0844
Miles	152 Collingwood	337-3990
New Community	425 Ann	351-3820
Orion	501 M.A.C.	332-2517
<hr/>		
Phoenix	239 Oakhill	351-3713
Raft Hill	420 Evergreen	337-2977
Shadowood (ΣΠ)	505 M.A.C.	332-3844
Toad Lane	415 Ann	332-3973

Dates to keep in mind for this summer

JUNE 4 —TRASH COLLECTION!!!

The City of East Lansing is having a yard waste collection day this June 4, 2001. They will accept the grass clippings and tied brush in bags purchased from City Hall or Public Works. The bags cost \$1. You *can* purchase bags from Meijer or elsewhere for cheaper, but then you must include a city sticker (\$1) on each bag. For more information, call the Department of Public Works at 517-337-9459. Their office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. — 5 p.m., including lunch hours.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Not just for Board Reps! This can be your opportunity to voice your opinions and ideas to the board in a formal manner.

Summer session meetings are Thursdays at 7 p.m. in 328A of Student Services.

May 31 June 7, 21

July 5, 19 August 2, 16

E-mail Megan Burt (President) with any questions or concerns at burtmega@msu.edu.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

June 2, 11 a.m. at Elsworth (711 Grand River)

A new member is anyone who has not previously attended an orientation!

Lunch will be provided, and attendance is mandatory. New members who do not attend **will be fined!**



Clean up, clear out, and recycle at Project Pride beginning Saturday

East Lansing residents can get a jump on spring cleaning with Project PRIDE. Residents can drop off recyclables from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 2 at the Abbott Center in East Lansing.

The Abbott Center is located at 1400-1500 Abbott Road (north of Saginaw Highway). Entrance to the event is from Kendale, off of Saginaw Highway.

Acceptable items include: usable furniture, metal windows and doors (without glass), lawn mowers, small appliances, stoves, washers, dryers, household utensils, car and household batteries, scrap metal and other metal items, wearable clothing, Styrofoam, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, bicycles, glass bottles

and jars (no green, blue, yellow), #1 (PETE) and #2 (HDPE) plastic bottles, corrugated cardboard, tin cans, aluminum cans, and empty aerosol cans, tires, and lumber.

Automobile tires and lumber (no yard waste or treated/painted wood) will be accepted for a modest charge. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioning units can be delivered to the site, but there is a \$15 charge for Freon removal.

Non-acceptable items include: books and encyclopedias, box springs, fuel oil tanks, gas tanks or cans, propane tanks or bottles, fluorescent light fixtures, green, blue and yellow glass, window and door glass, wooden window

and door frames, mufflers, oil and oil pans, steel cable, wire fencing, trash, construction debris and household hazardous waste.

Flowers and trees for sale: Woodland flowers (trillium and Jack-in-the-Pulpit) and a variety of native shrubbery, bushes, trees, and flats of flowers will be for sale at the Abbott Center.

Compost information and samples will be provided by Granger Compost Center and Urban Options.

For more information, pick up a Project Pride brochure at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Road; East Lansing City Hall, 40 Abbott Road; many locations around East Lansing, or call 319-

Project Pride offers a great way to get more involved cleaning up your home, East Lansing, the environment as a whole.





Questions



Summer Session 2001 Board of Directors Representatives

- Atlantis**
Steve Cole
- Bower**
Erin Wright
- Elsworth**
Rhee Byun
- Ferency**
Katie Rehahn
- Hedrick**
Dave Gibbs
- Miles**
Odin Ozdil
- New Community**
Crystal Willeford
- Orion**
Brian Cramer
- Phoenix**
Steve Marsh
- Raft Hill**
Laura Satterfield
- Shadowood**
Kevin McCarty
- Toad Lane**
Jeanette Maurice

each other and try to help each other in times of needs.

Non-partisanship— The co-ops should be involved in the community, but shouldn't be caught up in political fighting.

5. *Where do the charges we pay go?*

To assist the touring efforts of the Dave Matthews Ba... no, actually, the largest chunk goes to assessments. This money covers mortgage payments for the house, major maintenance issues on the houses, insurance, staff salaries, and the many other things it takes to keep this organization running. The rest of your charges go to keep your house running, such as gas, electricity, cable, food supplies, etc.

6. *How is the organization run?*

By ouiji board. Actually, the organization is run by its members. Each house selects a house member as their Board of Directors representative, and every two weeks the Board meets and votes on decisions and policies. Most of the major decisions for the organization are passed there. Because of the highly transient nature of our organization (with most of us being students), the Board hires staff members to help run the organization. We have an Executive Director, a Member Services Coordinator, and a Maintenance Coordinator who helps the Board and members run the organization. Also, each house selects representatives to committees:

Finance, Membership, Education, and Physical Development. At these meetings, motions and suggestions are sent from the members to the Board for their consideration. The members also have another voice in the organization. Every year, an all-member meeting is held, and a decision made here by a majority of the members is more powerful than any Board decision .

7. *What are these "Corporate Documents" I keep hearing about?*

To allow our organization to run, we have several documents that state the runs we run by. One of the most important is the individual house constitutions. Each house has one, and everyone who moves in should get a copy of it. Most house constitutions state such things as: membership requirements, work weekends, guest policies, and work requirements. Another important document is the Code of Operations (or the Code as it's also known). Every house should have at least three copies of the code one with the Board Rep, one with the education officer, and one in the house officer manual. The code list the day to day responsibilities of the organization and of the individual members. Some of the more important aspects of the code are:

Co-ops Rights and Responsibilities: This section of the code tells people what their obligations and duties are to the house and to each

other (e.g. respect others space, pay charges, etc.)

Outstanding Balance: If you have a balance at the end of the contract period, you cannot resign for that house. If you move out of your house, you have to go to the office, and sign a release form. Until your space is filled, you are responsible for all charges.

Pet Policy: This is the rules for having a pet in a house that allows pets (if a house doesn't allow pets, then you can't have one, no matter what .) The two most important parts of this policy are that any pet owners must sign a pet agreement and pay a \$40 pet fee .

Party Policy: This states the rules that a house has to follow to have a party. Among them are: you have to have 3/4 of the house vote to allow the party, no house funds can be used to buy alcohol, and no selling of alcohol will be allowed, and the only advertising of a house party can be in flyers in co-ops.

Harassment Policy: NO HOUSE MEMBER SHOULD EVER HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS! ! This policy states the process people can go through to deal with this issue (It will be answered in more detail later, in question eight).

Expulsions: This lists the reasons a person may be expelled by a house (e.g. violations of the Roommate's Bill of Rights, non- performance

of house duties, harassment, non-payment of charges, etc.). It also states the process a house has to go through to evict somebody for any of the above reasons.

Committees: SHC has five different committees: finance, membership, education, physical development, and the Board of Directors. This section of the code deals with the responsibilities of the committee, and how each committee is run. Each house selects a house member to sit on each of these committees.

Member Accounts: This section of the code deals with the responsibilities of paying your charges. The rules are, if you are \$100 past due, you can be served with a notice for a court date for eviction. All payments are due in the SHC office by the first of the month, and a list of all

charges due will be sent out to the house treasures to post in the houses. This section also lists the responsibility of the house treasurers.

The other two corporate documents are the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws. They basically set up the corporate system we follow, with the Board, staff and committees.

8. I'm having problems with one of my house mates. What can I do?

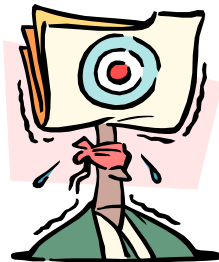
The first thing to do is to talk to the house mate. Maybe the person isn't aware of how

their attitude is affecting you. If that doesn't work, talk the problem over with your membership officer. If need be, the membership officer can mediate between the two of you. A final step is to speak to the vice-president of membership and ask him for help. The Vice-President of Membership (or VPM) can help mediate, arrange to move somebody to another house, or investigate the situation and recommend a solution to the problem.

9. My door (heating unit, shower, etc.) isn't working? What can I do?

The first thing to do is to tell your physical development officer. The problem may be something that can be handled by someone in the house. If the problem is too difficult for the P. D. officer to handle,

See **Questions**, page 6.



Don't hesitate to call or e-mail any of the staff or officers with questions you may have. We work for YOU!

Feeling lost? Ask these guys!

Summer 2001 Executive Officers and Staff of SHC

President **Megan Burt**
New Community
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burtmega@msu.edu

Executive VP **Roy Jorgensen**
Ferency
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VP of Educ. **Kelly M. Hoover**
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Phys. Dev. **Stuart Holmes**
355-8313 — coop@msu.edu

Phys. Dev. Asst. **Jeff Butts**
355-8313 — coop@msu.edu





Mission Statement

Our cooperative principles promote quality housing and services. As individuals we are empowered through democratic participation to create a community equally accessible to all. As an organization we are committed to expand the Cooperative movement.

May 31, 2001

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Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

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Fax: 517-355-9576
Email: coop@msu.edu

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MSU.EDU/~COOP

You're your own big cheese with all of this valuable information!



Questions

then you can call the SHC office at 355-8313. At the office, a work order will be filled out, and Stu, our Maintenance Coordinator will come out to the office and either fix the problem, or arrange to hire somebody to fix the problem.

10. What are the co-op mailboxes for?

They are for communication to and from the office. Throughout the week, someone from your house will be taking information to the individual houses and putting it in the co-op mailbox. Then, someone at the house will take the information out and put it in the individual member's mailbox. And, if there is any information you want to send to the office, you can

put it in the mailbox and it will be taken to the office.

The bottom of the mailbox has space to send the Pinecones back to the office.

Be sure someone from your house **does** pick up the mail, as it includes Board Packs for the Board of Directors meetings, and this lovely edition of the Pine Press!

11. What are the Pinecones?

Pinecones are a personal message from one person to another in the Pine Press. You can put them in the bottom part of the co-op mailbox, and the person taking the mail to the office will give them to the publications editor for revision and possible inclusion.

*This article was originally written by Tim Dempsey. Some updates have been included. Dempsey was the Member Services Coordinator from June 96- June 97. He came to SHC from the Oberlin co-op system and then left us to go to graduate school at Boston University. Nowadays, he teaches in the Boston area and writes historical tidbits for the Boston Tourism people. *

Remember to submit!
The Pine Press will be published every two weeks.